
The HAYES VALLEY Voice

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MAR/APR 2002

HVNA: THE EARLY YEARS

As Patricia Walkup steps down as HVNA Board president, long-time resident Judy Edmond looks back at their beginnings together

I FIRST MET PATRICIA WALKUP IN THE EARLY 90'S. Neighbors living around the corner from each other, we were both greatly concerned about safety and quality of life in our Hayes Valley neighborhood. In those days, Hayes Valley had a reputation as a drug and prostitution area. But it was also an area with many long time residents who chose to live here because of the neighborhood's diversity and its off-beat, creative ambiance.

Hayes Valley has seen a great deal of change since the early 1990's. It has seen a great deal of gentrification. Many of the neighbors who had lived in fear and frustration with the conditions in the neighborhood and joined in the early and intense years of the revitalization have since moved on. Not Patricia.

The first time I remember working with Patricia was at a SF SAFE meeting that was held at my house. The organizing efforts began through the support of SF SAFE with a core group of neighbors. While we were all concerned about safety and willing to work together, Patricia took the safety of the neighborhood on as a personal mission. She made a commitment that she has held true to and is a "best practice" example for neighborhood revitalization. Just a few of her key activities back then were:

- > Developing support through intensive behind the scenes work – rallying neighbors on the phone. Patricia worked closely with the police to strengthen their commitment and with the community to develop their trust in police initiatives.
- > Targeting strategic areas such as the Café on the corner of Page and Laguna, which was struggling due to unsafe activities outside. Patricia encouraged the police and community to hold meetings at the Café and to begin and end neighborhood walks there.
- > Reclaiming Koshland Park, which had been taken over by drug dealers and prostitutes who created so much noise at night that the neighbors could not sleep. Patricia encouraged neighbors who could see the park to report illegal activity, organized brown bag lunches in the park to create a positive presence (sometimes it was only three women from the neighborhood, but they kept coming), and worked with the police to focus on the park – to not just ride by, but to walk through.

Through all of these initiatives, Patricia not only organized and encouraged the neighbors to report, but took an active role herself, riding around the neighborhood at different times of day and night and calling to report unsafe activities.

Patricia Walkup exemplifies the saying, "One person can make a difference." The neighborhood is very fortunate to have had that "One Person" so committed to taking up the charge toward a safer, better Hayes Valley.



Patricia Walkup
*Inaugural HVNA President and
founding Board Member*

A Letter from the President

Hayes Valley residents and merchants:

Well, the torch has been passed and a new Board of Directors will bring its guidance to the Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association. We have big shoes to fill. The outgoing group accomplished a lot through their commitment and passion over the last two years. We all owe them a big thank you.

Thanks to the past Board's work, HVNA now has four fully functioning committees—Public Safety, Transportation & Planning, Beautification and Communications. Also thanks to their efforts, we now have 120 dues-paying members and by-laws to guide us. We even have this classy newsletter, our own stationary, a post office box and a telephone number with voice mail. The outgoing board was a productive team! That's a blessing for us new board members because the infrastructure for the Association is already so well laid out. We get to make the best of it and grow it and refine it so the good works that have been done in Hayes Valley keep getting done better over time.

So, hats off to Robin Levitt, Lynne Creighton, Judy Edmond, John Phillips, Margaret Serotte, Bob Willging, Stefan Hastrup, Ashley Arledge, Nick Bell, Frances Neagley and especially Patricia Walkup for your great service to Hayes Valley. We know you'll continue to be important contributors to the Association and leaders in the community. And Stefan, Ashley, Nick and Frances, I'm glad you'll be continuing to bring your experience to the new Board.

HVNA has evolved to become a model neighborhood group in the city. We have played an important role in influencing change in areas that serve our local interests, while also recognizing larger citywide needs. The Association is seen as progressive and farsighted in our principles and actions. In short, HVNA has earned respect of the city's decision makers. As we move forward, the new Board of Directors aims to work, with our members, to build (*con't inside*)

Looking Back at Ten Years of Commitment

"Thank you, Patricia, for all that you've done for Hayes Valley and for all that work that makes Octavia Boulevard possible. Only local people who spend so much of their time working for and making community know how truly difficult that work is, how discouraging it can be at times, and how wonderful it is when what you work for, so hard, meets success. Thanks for all your great work. Being able to design Octavia Boulevard has been one of the truly great experiences of my life."

— Allen Jacobs, UC Berkeley Professor of Urban Planning & Former SF City Planner

"Since 1992 Patricia Walkup has been Hayes Valley's number ONE crime fighter, park promoter, housing crusader and central freeway demolition lobbyist. She has been an unrelenting advocate for whatever would make her neighborhood a better one in which to live. Her tireless work and leadership in the community have forged a neighborhood organization, which she founded and led for eight years, that knows how to get things done and carries considerable influence with our governmental agencies. Her accomplishments, contributions to the community and friendship make me proud to have known her from the early crime-ridden dark days of Hayes Valley. Thank you, Patricia."

— Andrea Tishcler, Long-time Hayes Valley Resident

"Tenacity doesn't have to be boorish. When her motivations come from the heart, and when her persistence is spoken graciously with the best manners, a tenacious person can rise above the level of 'activist' and make her mark as a leader. Patricia Walkup has always maintained cordial leadership, even when the tempers are flaring and discourse gets ugly... often inspiring her opponents on a contested issue like the Central Freeway to collect themselves, save face and ultimately collaborate. She allows them the same chance at grace that she herself upholds. This may be the single reason why we have had any progress at all."

— Peter Albert, Manager, BART Planning/San Francisco and West Bay

"This used to be a dangerous neighborhood. Then Patricia Walkup moved in and now everyone wants to live here."

— San Francisco taxi driver

HVNA Explores Applying for Historic District Status



As we all know, part of the charm of Hayes Valley is our large percentage of historic architecture and the neighborhood's unique character. Our Planning and Transportation Committee has been investigating the possibilities of establishing a Hayes Valley Historic District. At our next meeting on March 28th, the Committee has arranged for three people to speak about the pro's and con's of Historic District status and what is required to establish the designation. The panelists include: Jeffrey Tully, a preservationist with the City Planning Department who will speak about the process for obtaining historical designation; Chris Verplanck, who is an architectural historian, will talk about how to conduct a neighborhood historic survey and his experience with the "Dogpatch" neighborhood (east Potrero Hill); and Charles Chase, head of SF Architectural Heritage, who will talk about the advantages of and what it means to be part of an historic district.

This promises to be a very interesting discussion of what could be an exciting opportunity for the Hayes Valley district.

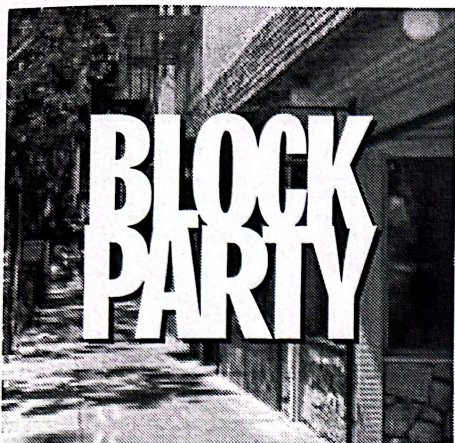
Recycling Collection now Includes *all* types of Plastic Bottles



Thanks to an expansion of recyclables, you no longer have to check the number on your plastic bottles. If it's a bottle, it's recyclable and can be put into your blue bin or "Fantastic Three" blue cart along with your glass bottles, all paper and all cans.

"Check the Neck". If a rigid plastic container has a neck smaller than its base, it can be recycled no matter what number is on the bottom. This includes bottles of all shapes, sizes and colors. In addition to standard items such as soda bottles and milk jugs, you can also recycle containers you may never have considered such as those used for shampoo, mouthwash, aspirin, laundry detergent, cooking oil, household cleaning supplies – and more.

For more information about recycling issues, visit the Department of the Environment's website at www.sfenvironment.com.



Hayes Valley Merchant Association's 12th Annual Spring Block Party to Benefit *Creativity Explored*.

Join the merchants of Hayes Valley for their 12th Annual Spring Block Party on Friday, April 12, 2002, from 6 - 10 pm.

Stores and restaurants will be open with food, drink, music and more. The event offers a great chance to enjoy a spring evening with old friends – or a chance to meet new ones. A raffle to benefit *Creativity Explored* offers a chance at winning lots of great prizes. Be sure to mark your calendars.

For complete information visit the website <www.hayesvalley.com>.

Kudo's to John Phillips

As some of you may have read in the news, Hayes Valley's own John Phillips, co-owner of The Parsonage Bed & Breakfast and HUD's Former Interim Western Regional Director, was abruptly moved from San Francisco to a subordinate position in Los Angeles in December after complaining that HUD was being lax on corruption and mismanagement in the Housing Authority. As problems continue to plague HUD and the San Francisco Housing Authority, we applaud John for his courage and integrity as we welcome him back to San Francisco.



The San Francisco Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center officially became part of the Hayes Valley Neighborhood with their long-awaited March 3rd ribbon cutting. For complete information, stop by the corner of Market and Octavia, or visit their website at <www.sfgaycenter.org>.

(*con't from front*) on these accomplishments and the solid foundation the "start-up" Board has created. In the next two months we will be developing our vision and setting priorities for the Association's energy over the coming year.

This board was elected to represent the membership and we need to hear from members about ideas, problems or recommendations. I encourage all of you to consider becoming involved on a committee and to attend monthly meetings. Coming together with thoughts and in action, we will continue toward making Hayes Valley one of San Francisco's most livable neighborhoods.

All the best,

Peter Cohen, President

HVNA's New Board of Directors

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Communications – Ashley Arledge

Planning and Transportation –
Stefan Hastrup and Robin Levitt

Public Safety – Patricia Walkup

Newsletter

Editor – Ashley Arledge

Layout – Phil Hamlett

To sponsor a newsletter or submit ideas, articles and comments contact Ashley at ashley@sfcasa.org

HVNA March Meeting:

Celebrating HVNA's Architectural Heritage

At our meeting March 28th, Jeffrey Tully, preservationist with the City Planning Department; Chris Verplanck, architectural historian; and Charles Chase, head of SF Architectural Heritage, will talk about what it means to be part of an historic district and the possibilities that obtaining such a designation represents for Hayes Valley.

Looking ahead to April

Tired of traffic zooming through the neighborhood? Tired of motorists doing donuts on your corner? Scared of erratic and discourteous drivers who run traffic lights and stop signs? On April 25th, Ben Hamilton-Baillie, a planner from England will be talking about traffic calming methods and will have some surprising findings to share with us that could help us improve the safety and livability of Hayes Valley. You don't want to miss this interesting and lively discussion at our April HVNA Community Meeting.

For additional information, contact Robin Levitt, 415.863-5302 or rlevitt@prodigy.net.

HVNA Calendar

March

03.28 HVNA Community Meeting
First Baptist Church, #7 Octavia St,
7-8:30pm.

April

04.11 Police Community Relations Forum
Northern Police Station, 1125 Fillmore St,
7-9pm

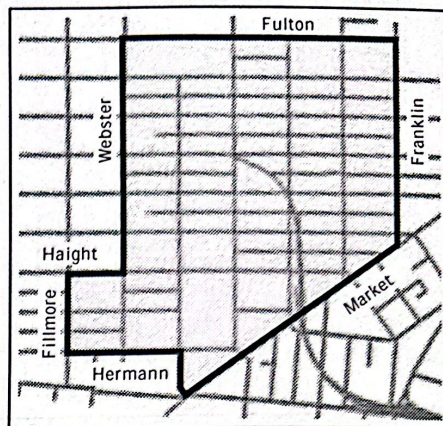
04.12 Hayes Valley Merchant's Association
12th Annual Spring Block Party,
Hayes Valley Business District
6-10 pm

04.15 HVNA Planning and Transportation
Committee Meeting, 451 Fulton St,
7pm

04.25 HVNA Community Meeting
First Baptist Church, #7 Octavia St,
7-8:30pm.

To sponsor an edition of *The Hayes Valley Voice*, contact the editor at ashley@sfcasa.org

HVNA at a Glance



The mission of the Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association is to promote a sense of friendly association and community involvement throughout Hayes Valley; preserve and reinforce our neighborhood's cultural and economic diversity, historic character, beauty and architecture; and insure our community's constructive participation in San Francisco's governmental process.

— DON'T MISS THE HVNA MARCH MEETING THURSDAY THE 28TH —

The HAYES VALLEY Neighborhood Association | HVNA

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